

2001-014-1012

Arvin Plumbing, Inc.

1329 Washboard Road
Springville, IN 47462

July 3, 2001

General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVP)
1800 F Street, N.W., Room 4035
ATTN: Laurie Duarte
Washington, D.C. 20405

RE: Federal Acquisition Regulation case 2001-014

I am writing to you to express my opposition to the blacklisting regulations. We are a merit shop-plumbing contractor. We do excellent work and have top-notch employees. We pay them top scale wages and great benefits. We take pride in our professionalism, our quality work, and fast track schedules. However, we have been unable to get government work due to union dominance. We feel unions are in control-able to pick & choose the work they want, while we are left with what they don't want. No matter how well we bid a job, we are beat out by union targeting. They take great pride in their victories. Their goal is to run us out of business. Due to several disturbing instances, we feel like our rights have been trampled. There is definitely descrimation now days--not against minorities or women, but against merit shop owners. It no longer seems like a free America.

We are opposed to blacklisting regulations for the following reasons:

- * Almost anyone (including competitors, disgruntled former or current employees, unions seeking recognition or concessions, and disgruntled customers) can file false allegations of violations leading to denial of a federal contract.
- * The rule is unnecessary as current acquisition regulations allow contract denials for unethical or illegal practices.
- * There is no nexus between the ability to perform a contract and a company's conduct that may be alleged to be unethical or illegal.
- * Government contracting officers, most of whom do not have much, if any, legal experience, will lack the resources and expertise to determine if a company should be blacklisted.

Please take our plea into consideration and help merit shops compete in free enterprise, as it should be in America. The honest, hard-working family owned businesses should have every right to compete if they have the qualifications. Thank you.

Donna Arvin
President, Arvin Plumbing, Inc.

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